

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following Abstract as indicated below; a clean copy of which is presented on a separate page at the end of this document:

**Abstract**

The invention relates to a method for monitoring and controlling a number of available decentralized IP budgets of a subscriber in a packet-based communications network during an online assessment of charges for data transmissions. According to the invention, the number of available IP budgets are each allocated in a data flow-specific manner to a data flow in a context that can be assigned to the subscriber, and a higher-order control function is provided in a network node of the communications network. Said higher-order control function charges the data flow-specific IP budget according to a resource use of a data flow based on charge assessment specifications issued by a charge assessing computer during a resource use of the data flow in a context that can be assigned to the subscriber, and effects a partial or complete transmission of the IP budget between selected data flows in a case-related manner.